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NOTHING MATTERS NOW BUT VICTORY

*An Address on the Opening of the
1942 Victory Loan Campaign*

by

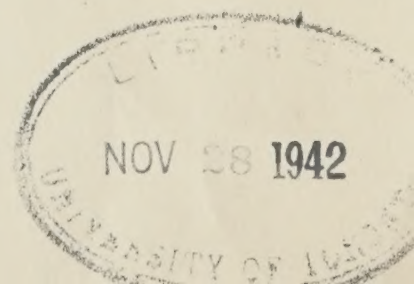
RIGHT HON. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 16, 1942



OTTAWA
EDMOND CLOUTIER
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
1942



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NOTHING MATTERS NOW BUT VICTORY

I feel much honoured to have the privilege of addressing so vast a gathering in the largest city of Canada.

Of the privations which war has brought, I have felt none more strongly than the fact that it has not been possible for me, except on rare occasions, to visit different parts of our country, and to address public meetings on the momentous problems of our day. Even the radio, with the opportunity it affords to speak to the entire country at one and the same time, does not begin to compensate for that lack of inspiration, and sense of companionship in a great cause, which comes from looking, as one speaks, into the faces of one's fellow-men.

I feel particularly honoured that my remarks, this evening, should be addressed, under the auspices of the Montreal Rotary Club, to a gathering composed of members of service clubs, members of the Canadian Club, representatives of civic organizations, and of the Victory Loan committees in and about Montreal. I am greatly pleased to be associated on this occasion with the Chairman of the National War Finance Committee, Mr. G. W. Spinney, the senior officials of the Province of Quebec National War Finance Committee, and with the leading officers and members of the Montreal Executive. To all, I should like to express my warm appreciation of the welcome so cordially extended.

The Third Victory Loan Campaign

This evening's meeting marks the opening, in this city, of the third Victory Loan campaign. It is a new departure to ask the people of Canada to subscribe so large an amount as three-quarters of a billion dollars. Never before in Canada's history has such a sum been the objective of any loan. In appealing for your support, I intend to ask you to think of how different our position is from that of the men and women of the countries of Europe and of Asia. When you realize that their fate might be ours, and that, but for their resistance, it would in all probability have been ours ere this, you will come to see how true it is that ***Nothing matters now but Victory.***

It is of the deep significance of that phrase that I desire to speak to-night. There could be no more appropriate, no truer theme for the campaign than the one these words express.

The Example of Montreal

Let me, however, first say a word as to why it is particularly fitting that a national appeal for the support of all the people of Canada should be made in Montreal.

This city is the metropolis of our country. On this historic island dwell one-twelfth of the Canadian people. The community life of Montreal affords an example of the fruitful co-operation of the two great races whose equal partnership gave birth to our Canadian nation. You have admitted to the common citizenship of this great city, men and women from all parts of the world. The welfare and prosperity of the city depend upon an ever-deepening sense of human brotherhood. In harmonizing distinctions of race, and creed, and language, you are advancing the happiness and well-being of all your citizens.

The Victory Loan campaign is a nation-wide effort in community co-operation. As such the example of Montreal is all-important. But the example of Montreal is infinitely more significant as illustrating the unique contribution which the people of the whole of Canada can make to the cause and to the ideals of the United Nations.

In men and in materials, Canada is contributing magnificently to the common effort. On all sides, that contribution is being acknowledged. But the example of Montreal shows that Canada has also another contribution to make, one for which no other country is so well fitted as our own.

Canada's Contribution in Community Co-operation

Our nationhood is not based on the superiority of a single race, or of a single language. Canada was founded on the faith that two of the proudest races in the world, despite barriers of tongue and creed, could work together, in mutual tolerance and mutual respect, to develop a common nationality.

Into our equal partnership of English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians, we have admitted thousands who were born of other racial stocks, and who speak other tongues. They, one and all, have sought a homeland where nationality means not domination and slavery, but equality and freedom. Without the ideal of equality among men, without the vision of human brotherhood, the Canadian nation could never have come into being; without them, it cannot survive.

Germany and Japan have made of nationality an evil thing. They have made of it an instrument to destroy, not only the traditions and the culture, but the very existence of other nations. For

each of them, its own nationality is not the servant; it is to be the master of humanity. In making nationality the servant, and not the master of humanity, Canada, even to-day, is giving to the world its greatest hope for the future.

International Significance of Canadian Unity

I appeal to-night to all Canadians fully to appreciate and to cherish our national unity. The unity of Canada is vital to the continued existence of Canada. But the unity of Canada belongs not only to Canada, it belongs to mankind. Only by extending throughout the world the ideals of mutual tolerance, of racial co-operation, and of equality among men, which form the basis of Canada's nationhood, can nationality come to serve humanity. Only as nationality serves humanity, can mankind hope to substitute co-operation for conflict, in the relations between the nations of the world.

Preservation of Freedom Requires Efforts of All

Three years ago, to preserve their own freedom, the peoples of many countries in Europe were relying upon the resistance of other countries. We, of the western hemisphere, are largely in a similar position to-day. It is only the scale of things which has changed. The New World, in the preservation of its freedom, is placing reliance not so much upon other countries, as upon other continents. But let Europe come completely under Nazi domination, and Asia under the domination of Japan, and the waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific will in no way serve to isolate the countries of North and South America. To a victorious enemy, these great oceans would prove no barrier against invasion. They could become an open way to further conquest. Once seized of this potential danger, we shall see that *Nothing matters now but Victory.*

A Fight to the Finish

Let me say quite frankly that I do not believe peoples of the New World begin to realize this appalling menace, nor, speaking relatively, how imminent it may be. Many still continue to comfort themselves with the illusion that, somehow, the war must end in a stalemate—in some kind of compromise. They seem to feel that long before the nations in Europe and in Asia have all but totally destroyed one another, these nations will have seen the wisdom of ceasing their hostilities. People who think in this way are far from understanding the Nazi mentality. They are far from understanding the spirit of the peoples of the United Nations, and their determination

to end once and forever the menace of war. People who think or talk of compromise have not yet grasped that the Nazi doctrine of a superior race implies the subjugation and, if Nazi deeds so demand, the extermination of all other peoples. They do not realize that unless the Axis powers are completely defeated in the present conflict, world wars will be constantly recurring, and that all nations, meanwhile, will be held in servitude to the constant fear of war. Whether we like it or not, we do well to realize that this is a fight to the finish, and that upon its outcome will depend, for good or ill, the future of all countries and of all continents. Knowing the extent to which subjugation of conquered peoples have already gone, we surely have cause to feel that ***Nothing matters now but Victory.***

The Balance of Forces

The immensity of the task of the United Nations is as yet far from being comprehended. We shall need not only all the strength and endurance of a combined total effort, but the clearest vision of the greatness of the cause for which we are fighting if we are to be equal to the task of achieving victory.

What are the facts? Let us face them squarely. During three years of war, aggression has followed aggression in an almost unbroken series of successes for the enemy. After three years of war nowhere has the balance been turned decisively against the enemy. In 1940, Britain held; in 1941, Russia held; at the present stage of the war, Britain is still holding; Russia is still holding; China, despite the years of her resistance, is still holding. A precarious balance is being maintained on the Atlantic, in the Middle East, and in the Pacific. Very critical battles are at the moment in progress. Others loom upon the horizon. There is, however, no sign that, as yet, the tide of war has definitely turned.

The balance now appears so even that a small margin of strength on the side of the Axis might tilt the scales to the side of disaster. A small margin of strength on the side of the United Nations might prove decisive for Victory. No effort, therefore, can be too slight to weigh in the scales of victory or defeat; no contribution too small to count.

We all know that notwithstanding the slaughter of millions and the anguish which three years of war have entailed, a great price in human suffering and human sacrifice has still to be paid if the enemy is to be defeated and freedom won. How enormous that price may be, none can say. All we really know is that the more rapidly the forces of freedom reach their full strength, the better are the chances of the enemy's defeat, and the less appalling will be the suffering and sacrifice required to win. Only the total defeat of the Axis powers can end this war, if freedom is not to perish from

the earth. Only the ending of the war will end the continued colossal sacrifice of human life. Surely *Nothing matters now but Victory.*

Enslavement and Extermination of Men and Races

On their onward march toward world conquest, it is not alone by seizing the territories and subjugating the peoples of one country after another, that the combined forces of Germany and Japan hope to effect their totalitarian aims. To achieve their aims, they are employing methods much more sinister and diabolical than the force of arms alone.

Less than three years ago, very few, if any of us, were able to imagine most of Europe under Nazi domination, and the whole of South Eastern Asia under the domination of Japan. To-day our minds similarly refuse to entertain the scale upon which horrors, already too common, may yet be perpetrated by the Nazis and the Japanese. As the war continues, we may see that no treatment is too brutal, no atrocities are too horrible, no methods of extermination are too deadly to be employed by the Axis powers, should they come to believe that such are necessary to save themselves and to gain their ends.

The Doctrine of the Master Race

For a century or more, German leaders have preached to their people the doctrine of the master race. They have boasted of the superiority of the Germans over all other peoples. The belief in that superiority was used to justify their aspirations for universal power. Before the Nazis came into power, that superiority was not restricted to any particular aspect of life. To the Nazis, however, power means only material power, not intellectual power, nor moral or spiritual power. To them, the superiority of the master race consists in its ability to dominate by brute force.

Conscious of their own inferiority in the higher qualities, the Nazis, in order to gain ascendancy in their own land, began by crushing all that was best in the intellectual, religious and cultural life of Germany. For like reasons, in the countries they have conquered, they have marked out the intellectual and spiritual leaders of each nation for persecution or extermination. This has been done in order to destroy the national spirit, the traditions and the culture of these nations.

We know that the theory of the master race is false. It is a blasphemy against our common humanity. By seeking to destroy what is good, noble and civilized, in other races and other peoples, the Nazis hope to make it appear that this falsehood is true. If the

other races and peoples of the world can, one by one, be brutalized, decimated and enslaved, then, the Nazis believe, they will have made of the Germans a master race.

Persecution—a Major Weapon

Persecution of everything that stands opposed to their doctrine is the method employed by the Nazis to gain and to maintain power.

From the day Hitler achieved power in Germany, the concentration camp became a symbol of Nazi domination. In the conquered countries, as in Germany itself, the unspeakable tortures of the concentration camp have been used by Hitler to end opposition to the single master race. A typical example is what occurred as recently as last July when 15,000 alien refugees in France were rounded up by the Nazis to be shipped to concentration camps in Poland. Families were broken up. Men sent to one camp, and the women to another. Children over 8 years of age to a third. The younger children were placed in orphanages.

The first attempts to destroy the mind and spirit of a whole people were made in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Norway clearly is marked out for a similar fate.

The power of the spirit is particularly detested by those who worship material power. It is, therefore, no cause for surprise that religion, above all else, should be the object of Nazi hatred. In Western Europe, considerations of policy have mitigated the Nazi hostility to Christianity, but in Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, there has been a war of extermination against religion.

Starvation and Disease—Instruments of Extermination

Starvation is perhaps the commonest of all Nazi weapons of oppression. As Goering cynically asserted the other day, "if there is hunger, in no event will it be in Germany." The Nazi master race must be fed whether the rest of Europe dies of hunger.

No country has suffered as much from starvation as Poland. Greece, however, has fared little better. We know, for example, that in the eight months of last winter and spring, over three hundred thousand Greeks died of starvation. It is estimated that in Athens alone, a thousand people die of hunger every day.

The case of Greece affords a marked contrast between the aims of the Nazis and the cause for which the United Nations are fighting. Nazi Germany has snatched the food from the mouths of women and children. Canadians may well feel a little comfort from the thought that gifts of Canadian food are making possible some slight alleviation of the sufferings of the Greeks.

Even in France, where the Nazis must still show some consideration for opinion in the unoccupied zone, the scarcity of food is acute. In once prosperous Denmark, only a fraction of the people are able to get enough to eat.

Starvation brings disease in its train. Disease has not been unwelcomed by the Nazis where its ravages have been confined to the conquered races. In the Nazi order of things, disease may well be a convenient instrument of racial extermination. It is reported that, last winter, in Warsaw alone, hundreds of victims of spotted fever were put to death by gas, to check the spread of the disease among the German occupation troops.

Where the master race fears the greater fertility of other races, wholesale extermination by starvation, disease, and even by mass murder, has been in evidence.

Enslavement, Forced Labour and Mass Murder

Subject races are not, however, marked down for extermination, where they are needed as slaves of the German war machine. Such has been the case with the industrial populations of Czechoslovakia, of Holland, of Belgium and of France. Some have been forced to labour in their own countries, others have been sent to Germany. The conscription of French workmen is but the most recent of many drafts of forced labour sent to Germany to serve the master race.

The enslavement of whole populations inevitably meets with resistance from the victims of oppression, with sabotage and even with assassination. To combat isolated, and often undetected acts of individuals, collective reprisals have become a bloody technique of Nazi savagery.

To mention only a few of the more recent crimes—

In Norway, as a reprisal for the shooting of two members of the secret police, the Gestapo burned an entire village. By this one act, 400 persons were left homeless. In addition, 18 hostages were shot.

In Holland, mass shootings of hostages were the result of a visit paid last May by Himmler, the chief of the Gestapo.

In Czechoslovakia, 100 citizens of Prague paid with their lives for the death of the Nazi Heydrich. The name of the village of Lidice has become a symbol to the world of Nazi mass murder.

In France, shootings of hostages have increased with each act which served as their excuse. From twelve, the number rose to twenty, then to forty, then into the hundreds.

In Yugoslavia, it is reported that in one region alone, 11,000 civilians were killed because the population was alleged to be aiding guerillas against the Hungarian forces of occupation.

In Poland, it is estimated that more than a quarter of a million people were murdered by the Nazis between March and June of this very year.

A New Order of Mechanized Savagery

It should not be forgotten that all these brutalities and savageries are being committed, not as incidents in the heat of battle, or for purposes only of terrorization, but as the deliberate instrument of Hitler's racial policy. Remember, too, this is not meant to be a passing phase. Hitler boasts that the domination of the master race will last a thousand years, and will prevail over the whole world.

Turning from Europe to the Far East, we find in the so-called Japanese "co-prosperity sphere" the same pattern repeated, on an even vaster scale.

The mechanized savages of Germany and Japan seek to exalt themselves by tearing down all that humanity has attained of religion, of civilization, and of human well-being. Whether we look out to East or to West, there is ample evidence of the fate which awaits the whole of mankind should their "new order" ever come into being.

With the world threatened by so terrible a fate, we must surely see that ***Nothing matters now but Victory.***

Fighting on Many Fronts

Fighting on the side of the United Nations is a fight against aggression, world conquest, and world domination. It is a fight against every form of torture and atrocity.

It is a fight against the slow death of the concentration camp.

It is a fight against starvation.

It is a fight against disease.

It is a fight against slavery.

It is a fight against the slaughter of the innocents.

It is a fight against mass murder.

It is a fight against racial extermination.

It is a fight against the destruction of culture.

It is a fight against the persecution of religion.

It is a fight for the souls as well as for the bodies of men.

Fighting on the side of the United Nations means fighting on all these fronts.

The Meaning of Victory

I have said that *Nothing matters now but Victory* and, in so doing, have stressed the word, *now*. In appealing for your whole-hearted support of Canada's third victory loan, I should like also to refer very briefly to the significance of the word, *victory*.

Most people would say that victory means the defeat of the enemy. To my mind a broader and a deeper conception of victory is necessary. It is necessary, I believe, in order to give to the peoples of the United Nations, the will and the courage to accept the burdens and the sacrifices which are essential to victory. We must look beyond the mere defeat of the enemy to the world order which is to exist in the future. The peoples of Germany and Japan are sustained by the hope of world domination. Our effort will be sustained and strengthened by the hope which comes from the vision of a better world.

The war is indeed a struggle against evil. But that is only half the truth. We need, as well, a vision of the war as a positive struggle for positive good. Men who have fought in this war, and others who have borne its privations and sufferings, will never be satisfied with a return to the conditions which prevailed before 1939. The broader and deeper conception of victory will be found only in a new world order.

An Opportunity for All to Serve

All cannot serve in the armed forces or make the machines and munitions of war. But the Victory Loan campaign provides every citizen with an opportunity to share actively in the war effort of our country. It is a national call to self-forgetting service.

The association of the service clubs in this great campaign is symbolic of the cause for which we are fighting. Until the ideal of social service to which they are devoted becomes the ideal of men and of nations, there can be no lasting victory for the forces of freedom.

The Victory Loan, rightly viewed, should never be thought of as a sacrifice. It is an opportunity for service. It is an opportunity open to every citizen, however small his means, to add to the total strength of his country in war, and to contribute to international and social security when victory has been achieved.

It is in this spirit that I appeal to all my fellow Canadians to give their utmost support to the Victory Loan.

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